

## National Fire Prevention Week Web Audio Script

Welcome to our CAL FIRE website. I'm Chief Del Walters, CAL FIRE's Executive Officer.

Each year, the week surrounding the date of October 9<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as National Fire Prevention Week. Why October 9<sup>th</sup>? The date commemorates the infamous "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871 that killed 250 people and destroyed over 17,000 homes.

National Fire Prevention Week is October 5<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is "Prevent Home Fires".

CAL FIRE responds to over 300,000 emergencies and calls for service each year. These calls include rescues, medical emergencies, traffic collisions, hazardous materials spills and fires of all types . Over 5,000 of these emergencies are fires inside homes and other buildings.

One of the best ways to protect you and your family is to install smoke detectors on each floor of your home and in each room used for sleeping. Working smoke detectors increase the chance of surviving a home fire by 50%.

At CAL FIRE, we believe every week is Fire Prevention Week but this week is another good

CAL FIRE's Public Information Officer Daniel Berlant is here to share some more tips on home fire safety. Daniel?

The leading cause of home fires in the U.S. is cooking. Here are some safety tips to prevent cooking fires from happening to you:

- never leave food unattended while it's cooking
- have an ABC type fire extinguisher within easy reach of your cooking area
- set a timer to remind you when food is done
- make sure a working smoke detector is installed near the kitchen and test it once a month. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year.

The leading cause of home fire deaths in the U.S. is smoking. Here are some safety tips to prevent fires caused by smoking:

- Use ashtrays and keep them emptied
- Make sure smoking materials are completely extinguished before they are thrown away.
- Never smoke in bed
- Better yet, quit. Your lungs will thank you for it

For more tips on home fire safety, please check out our education section on our website or drop by your nearest CAL FIRE station.

So during this years fire prevention week – please remember – fire safety starts with you

